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TORRANCE SOLDIER RETURNS A HERO . . . Corporal Don E. Meyer, above right, who escaped the Japanese prison camp at Cabanatuan, near Manila, P. I., and brought back to the War Department valuable information for use against the Japs, arrived home Friday and will be honored by Torrance Rotary Club tonight. He is seen above being congratulated by Judge Otto B. Willett, president of Rotary, who extended the invitation to the hero.—(Torrance Herald photo)

RETURNED HERO, WHO FLED JAP PRISON CAMP, WILL BE HONORED TONIGHT BY ROTARY

Cpl. Don E. Meyer, national hero who is one of the few to escape a Japanese prison camp, is home in Torrance, and he will be honored by Torrance Rotary club tonight at the big football banquet which more than 100 persons are expected to attend. The son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Meyer, 21730 S. Figueroa st., and a brother of Jimmy Meyer, student at Torrance high school, Cpl. Meyer spent almost three years in Japanese captivity, and escaping recently, he made his way around the world landing in New York on Dec. 2.

Taken into the arms of the nation and made the official guest of the War Department, Cpl. Meyer has told his story to those who can make the best use of it in winning the war and saving others in the hands of the Japanese, and little can be written about his experiences. However, home in Torrance, where he arrived last Friday, the young soldier was immediately invited by Judge Otto B. Willett, president of Torrance Rotary club to be the guest of the club as the first of a series of civic honors to be paid the young hero who wears the Presidential Citation ribbon, the

Order of the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct medal, an overseas ribbon and service star for action prior to Pearl Harbor, and the Asiatic campaign bar with one star.

Decorated
Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff, personally decorated the corporal with the Order of the Purple Heart.

City, Chamber Directors Form Postwar Plans

Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, the City Council and the City Planning Commission will form a Torrance Postwar Planning commission to lay the groundwork for development here after the war, it was announced yesterday.

The City Council and Planning Commission have invited the chamber postwar planning body, comprised of the directors, to meet in a joint session on Tuesday, Jan. 2, according to Harry B. Lewis, executive secretary.

E. W. Quimby, manager of J. J. Newberry Co., has been appointed by the Retail Merchants division of the chamber to represent that body on the new commission.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett notified the chamber of the action of the City Council, and invited the chamber directors to the session on Jan. 2.

Tragedy Strikes Twice In Home Of Mrs. Herlett

Double tragedy struck the home of Mrs. Katherine Herlett within a few weeks, the first incident being the report of the War Department that her husband, 1st Lt. James Herlett, was missing in action.

The second was the death of her father, Frank Ernest Wolff, who died Dec. 8 at Los Angeles. Mr. Wolff was born in Colville, Wash., on Sept. 23, 1882. Services were conducted at Snyder's Southwest funeral parlor on Dec. 11 at 3 p. m., with Rev. Hubert Davidson officiating, and interment was in Inglewood Park cemetery.

Late information from the government indicates that Lt. Herlett may be a prisoner of war, inasmuch as no trace of the infantry platoon leader, nor his body, has been found. This is being investigated through usual channels, it was said.

Silver Star for Harry Sammond

Private First Class Harry W. Sammond, 26237 Eshelman st., Lomita, today possessed the Silver Star medal awarded by the War Department for "gallantry in action" while in combat March 15, 1944, in the Solomon Islands.

TORRANCE PREPARES TO ENTERTAIN THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN CHRISTMAS EVE

The Torrance Civic Christmas party and entertainment, to be held in the Civic Auditorium Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, commencing at 2:30 p. m., bids fair to being an outstanding success, according to the reports of the various committees in charge of the planning and preparation.

The Torrance Lodge of Loyal Order of Moose, No. 785, is coordinating the efforts of all organizations within the city, to insure that all of the innumerable details are taken care of in connection with the gigantic entertainment and party arranged during the past weeks.

Following the entertainment, gifts of candy, fruit and nuts will be distributed to all Torrance children 15 years of age and under and to all of the children of service men and women in the Torrance trade area, including Gardena, Lomita, Welteria, Harbor City, Rolling Hills, Palos Verdes Estates and Hollywood Riviera. This, it was pointed out, takes in all of the territory covered by the Torrance Selective Service Board. Although invitations have been sent out by the local Moose Lodge, it is urged that all children embraced in the foregoing categories attend the party. All citizens are also urged to pass word on to children of their acquaintance.

The entertainment is open to the general public. The entertainment program, arranged by the Moose Lodge committee, is as follows:

Coco and Loco, comedy clowns.
Jack McAfee, comedian.
Captain Jones and Co., magicians.
Serge Flash, juggler.
Al Connors, trained dogs and sensational wagon wheel act.
Labe Saffro, champion bag puncher.
Phil and Dottie Phelps, novelty head balancing.
The Craigs, rolling globe and balancing.
Chester Bill, Indian and Western novelty.
Mottier Brothers, athletic novelty.

In addition to the party and entertainment, the Moose Lodge has projected the perpetual gift to our own Torrance Military hospital in the form of installation of head phones and newly-invented broadcasting system, which will permit patients to select a wide range of programs at will. Our boys on the sick and wounded list will be able to while away many an hour which would otherwise be dreary. This ideal Christmas gift has been acclaimed by all of the industries, merchants and citizens.

Torrance City Firemen are going "all out" for the big Moose party, and are spending their idle moments sacking the thousands of bags of nuts, etc., to be given away at the big party. The donations to date are listed herewith. With only two week days left prior to the party and entertainment, the finance committee reports that many more donations are anticipated. The donation blank furnished may be used to subscribe to this worthy cause.

The following donations have been received to date from or-

TO: LODGE No. 785, LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE, 1951 CARSON STREET, TORRANCE, CALIF.

Attached please find donation in the sum of \$_____ to aid in the civic Christmas party and entertainment and special gift to the Torrance Military hospital.

(Signature)

Roger W. Babson Was 91% Correct in His 1944 Predictions; Read What He Says About 1945 in This Newspaper

The Torrance Herald and Lomita News will publish Roger W. Babson's "BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR 1945" on Dec. 28. You will find the story on page 1.



Among other topics, Babson will forecast:
War and Peace
Inventories and Reconversion
Jobs and Payrolls
Commodity Prices and Retail Sales
Farming and Industry
Securities and Real Estate
Politics and Taxes
Foreign Trade and Our Allies
Babson, who has been forecasting business and financial trends since 1888, continues to enjoy an enviable reputation in his field. He was 91 per cent correct in his predictions of conditions in 1944!

We are calling his 1945 OUTLOOK to our readers' attention because we believe that everyone will find it of interest and value.

An Editorial MERRY CHRISTMAS

Down through the centuries, Christmas, in addition to its deep religious significance, has been a day of good cheer — day of play and gaiety and great excitement for children, and a day when men and women took off time from toil to enjoy the companionship of their friends and neighbors. It has been a day of brotherly love, a day of goodness, as well as good things on the table, for once a year mankind has sought to follow a little closer in the steps of the Master.

In many of our homes, gladness will be tinged with sadness on Christmas Day this year. Mothers, as they prepare the Christmas dinner, will pray silently that their sons will come back to them, and fathers will long for their boys and bury the hurt in their hearts when they sit down to the table without them. For wives and sisters and sweethearts, whose loved ones are wearing G.I. uniforms, there will be something missing from Christmas. But there will be courage and strong hope, too—hope born of the sureness that the tide of battle has turned and that the end may not be too long delayed.

There is not the pall over Christmas this year that there was on that dark Christmas which followed so close on the tragedy of Pearl Harbor. Despite war's burdens, we should all have gratitude in our hearts that the defeat of our enemies, though not yet accomplished, has become a certainty, and that the day of peace has come much nearer. And we should be eternally thankful that America has been spared the fearful devastation and tragedy visited on other countries which have been laid waste by bombs and enemy troops. This year, far more than last, or any year since the outbreak of war, we have reason to be thankful—and reason to extend the Yuletide greeting, "Merry Christmas!"

Sixth War Loan Torrance Drive \$33,265 Short

Torrance last night stood just \$33,265 short of its Sixth War Loan quota of \$840,000, according to Hillman R. Lee, chairman of the Sixth War Loan drive.

The total bond purchases amount to \$808,735. One of the last minute additions to Torrance's total was that of Southern California Edison Co., which allocated an additional \$15,000 in bond purchases to Torrance, making a total of \$50,000 for the Edison Company in the Sixth War Loan drive.

Bond buyers have only until Christmas Day to have their purchases apply against the Sixth War Loan quota, according to Chairman Lee, and he urged a last-minute effort to put Torrance over the top.

"We have not failed yet," he said, "and we must not let it happen now, particularly in view of reverses on the German front and the Christmas period when usually more money is circulating than at any other time of year."

"Put all you can in bonds between now and Christmas Day, and put Torrance over the top," he urged.

Chairman Lee explained that all bonds have to be in the hands of Federal Reserve banks by Dec. 30 to count against the Sixth War Loan drive quota, and that outlying communities, in a way, are penalized in that it requires about five days for a bond from Torrance and similar communities to reach the Federal Reserve bank.

Los Angeles, for instance, can buy up until the last day, Dec. 30, and get under the wire for the Sixth War Loan quota, he said, but not Torrance.

That is why the drive is continuing longer in other communities, Lee said. "It's not too late for Southern California to top the nation in Sixth War Loan bond purchases."

Robert H. Moulton, chairman of the Treasury War Finance Committee for this area, issued his statement coincident with the announcement that Southern California had gone over the top with a total of \$468,080,000, or three per cent above the overall quota.

"If every income earner who can possibly do so will buy an extra war bond before Dec. 30, we have a good chance for first place in the national drive," Moulton said.

So far, heaviest total of bond purchases has been by corporations, but the special issues in which they placed the bulk of their surplus funds were taken off the market Dec. 16.

"The corporations are far above their quota," Moulton said. "Now it's up to Mr. and Mrs. John Citizen to really dig deep in order to go over the top with our individual quota."

"We not only should make this quota but we should exceed it by the widest possible margin

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TORRANCE OVERPAYMENTS TO L.A. SCHOOLS ENOUGH TO BUILD COMPLETE \$1,200,000 PLANT

Torrance has paid to Los Angeles city schools since 1933 \$1,200,000 over and above what it has cost to operate the schools of Torrance, Mrs. Evelyn Carr, chairman of the Torrance Parents' Association, told members of the Kiwanis club Monday night. This money, it was pointed out, would completely pay for a high school plant second to none in the western United States for a town of Torrance's wealth and population.

Hillman R. Lee Elected to L. A. Council Board

Election of Hillman Lee to the executive board of the Los Angeles Area Council, Boy



Scouts of America, as representative of the Harbor District has been announced by Floyd W. Forker, president.

He is one of the 33 civic and business leaders who comprise the policy making executive group.

Simultaneous with the announcement, Forker disclosed that Scout units of the area had made 1944 their greatest year of achievement. Accomplishments included:

Distribution by Scouts and Cubs of more than 300,000 war posters and many hundreds of thousands additional for War Chest, Red Cross, Army, Navy, Marines, relief groups and the War Manpower Commission.

Sale of 33,138 bonds totaling \$1,846,575 in the Fifth War Loan drive.

Collection of more than 4,200,000 pounds of waste paper for salvage.

When asked how Torrance would fare concerning the shortage of teachers and equipment to be replaced, she stated "the worse than any other system," and perhaps better because of higher salaries we would be able to pay. Also, this is a long range program.

"Surely, we are not going to be so short-sighted as to let a temporary condition keep us from achieving a precious and lasting goal," Mrs. Carr declared.

John Stroh, chief of police and a Kiwanian brought out in the

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CUNNINGHAM ADDED TO HONOR ROLL

The name of Private Dan Cunningham, 1723 Gramercy ave., son of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Cunningham, belongs on the Torrance service roll, and it increases the number of Torrance men who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country in World War II to 37.

Cunningham died in action in the Southwest Pacific early this year, the casualty being announced on April 20, 1944. His name was inadvertently left off the honor rolls, previously published, but it has been added to duly honor the memory of the young soldier.

The fact that Jason H. Castillo was wounded in action with the army in Europe was revealed this week.

Torrance Girl Finds Valuables

Doris Lewis, 1501 W. 219th st., Torrance, was praised Monday by San Pedro police officers to whom she handed over a purse she had found lodged between a telephone booth and building wall at Ninth st. and Pacific ave. The purse, stolen some time ago from a Los Angeles woman, contained 47 \$25 war bonds and eight \$50 bonds and a quantity of jewels.

VISIT ENDS
Mrs. Robert J. Carson and daughter, Karen, of 915 Amalia ave., will return Sunday following a month's visit in Fort Collins, Colo., with Mrs. Carson's parents.

Trailer Issue May Result In Warm Hearing

Trailer dwellers, with no place to go, will present to Torrance City Council a new slant on life at the meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, it is indicated by the response that Chief of Police John Stroh is getting to the notice to "get into trailer camps or else," being served at the direction of the council.

"What are we going to do? We cannot buy, we cannot rent! We have bought trailers as a last resort and feel obligated to remain in the immediate area of our war jobs. Must we pay additional tribute for the privilege of living in a trailer camp?"

The above paragraph sums up the attitude of a majority of the trailer dwellers, it was said. Because of the warning, at least one trailer owner has moved out of the area of his war job. This means more gasoline and tires to be expended in getting to his job, it was pointed out.

Another trailer dweller has a wife in a trailer mounted on a truck on the truck on his own real property, with a couple of tents in addition, to stay close to his own land and his job. The city has ordered him to get off his own land and into a trailer camp or face court action.

That the council's recent move in ordering Chief Stroh to give notice to the trailer dwellers to abide by the old city ordinance or face court action will result in a warm hearing was the prediction of many residents of the city.